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Washington, DC 20231

OFGS File No. : P/2107-135  
Inventor : Frank BOTHE  
Title : CONNECTING UNIT FOR THE ANGLE-ADJUSTABLE CONNECTION  
OF AT LEAST TWO LOUDSPEAKER ENCLOSURES, AND  
CORRESPONDINGLY CONNECTED LOUDSPEAKER ENCLOSURES  
Assignee : d & b audiotechnik AG

Enclosed herewith please find the following documents in the above-identified application for United States Letters Patent:

- 19 Pages of Specification including Abstract and Claims
- 10 Numbered Claims Calculated as 10 Claims for Fee Purposes
- 3 Sheets of Drawing Containing Figures 1 to 3.
- X Inventor Designation Sheet (unsigned Declaration/Power of Attorney)
- X Priority is Claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119:

Convention Date April 7, 2000 for Germany Appln. S.N. 20006335.9

       Certified Priority Application

X Preliminary Amendment

       Assignment

X Return-Addressed Post Card

OFGS Check No. 94029, which includes the fee of \$690.00, calculated as follows:

Basic Filing Fee: . . . . . \$ 690.00

Additional Filing Fees:

Total Number of Claims in Excess of 20, times \$18: . . . . .

Number of Independent Claims in Excess of 3, times \$78: . . . . .

One or More Multiple Dependent Claims: Total \$260. . . . .

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Dorothy Jenkins

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*Dorothy Jenkins*

Signature  
May 19, 2000

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert C. Faber*

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

New York, New York

Frank BOTHE

Date: May 19, 2000

Serial No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed:

Examiner:

For: CONNECTING UNIT FOR THE ANGLE-ADJUSTABLE CONNECTION OF AT  
LEAST TWO LOUDSPEAKER ENCLOSURES, AND CORRESPONDINGLY CONNECTED  
LOUDSPEAKER ENCLOSURES

-----  
Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
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Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as  
follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-10 as follows.

Claim 3, line 1, change "one of the" to --claim 1--;  
line 2, delete "preceding claims".

Claim 4, line 1, change "one of the" to --claim 1--;  
line 2, delete "preceding claims".

Claim 5, line 1, change "one of the" to --claim 1--;  
line 2, delete "preceding claims".

Claim 6, line 1, change "one of the" to --claim 1--;  
line 2, delete "preceding claims".

Claim 7, line 1, change "one of the" to --claim 1--;  
line 2, delete "preceding claims".

Claim 8, line 1, change "one of the" to --claim 1--;  
line 2, delete "preceding claims".

Claim 9, line 1, change "one of the" to --claim 1--;  
line 2, delete "preceding claims".

Claim 10, line 2, change "one of" to --claim 1--;  
line 3, delete "the preceding claims".

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to change the multiple dependent claims to single dependent claims in order to reduce the government filing fee.

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Dorothy Jenkins

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

*Dorothy Jenkins*

Signature

May 19, 2000

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert C. Faber*

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Connecting unit for the angle-adjustable connection of at least two loudspeaker enclosures, and correspondingly connected loudspeaker enclosures

Description

The invention relates to a connecting unit for the angle-adjustable connection of at least two loudspeaker enclosures according to the preamble of claim 1.

The invention also relates to loudspeaker enclosures which are connected to one another by means of a corresponding connecting unit.

Connecting units of the type mentioned in the introduction are already known. The disadvantage is that the only way in which an angle adjustment of, for example, two interconnected loudspeaker enclosures can be carried out by means of a known connecting unit is inconvenient in handling terms since the connecting unit has to be adjusted such that it is possible for at least one loudspeaker enclosure to move freely for the angle adjustment thereof. As a result of this capacity for free movement of the loudspeaker enclosure which is to be repositioned, the latter has to be retained in the desired operating position, if appropriate, by a person assigned specifically to this task, while, at the same time, the connecting unit is fixed by a further person, who is

assigned specifically to that task. In particular in the case of loudspeaker enclosures of relatively large dimensions, two people are necessary for the purposes of positioning at least one loudspeaker enclosure and of fixing the connecting unit. For the purpose of quickly and correctly adjusting the angle of one or more loudspeaker enclosures, it may be necessary to have an additional, third person, who monitors the respective angle adjustment from an observation point at a distance from the loudspeaker enclosures. This means that quick and correct angle adjustment of at least two interconnected loudspeaker enclosures by means of a known connecting unit can only be carried out disadvantageously, using a comparatively high number of operating staff and/or in a manner which is inconvenient in handling terms.

The object of the invention is to specify a connecting unit of the type mentioned in the introduction by means of which quick, secure and correct angle adjustment of at least two interconnected loudspeaker enclosures is possible in an easy-to-handle and reliable manner.

In order to achieve this object, a connecting unit having the features of claim 1 is proposed, said unit comprising a first supporting part, which can be assigned to one loudspeaker enclosure, and a second supporting part, which can be assigned to the other loudspeaker enclosure, it being the case that the supporting parts are connected to one another in an articulated manner, and the angle position

assumed in each case between the two supporting parts is fixed in an adjustable manner by means of an angle-position device which acts in the manner of a turnbuckle. A connecting unit designed in this way makes possible an intended angle adjustment of at least two interconnected loudspeaker enclosures on account of the articulation connection between the two supporting parts, the angle-position device, which acts in the manner of a turnbuckle, ensuring, during the angle adjustment of one or more loudspeaker enclosures, that the latter always assume a stable angle position. The angle position of the corresponding loudspeaker enclosures, it being possible for said angle position to be adjusted in a variable manner by means of the angle-position device, is stable at all the adjustable angle-adjustment points since the angle-position device operates essentially without play, with the result that, before, during and after the angle adjustment of the loudspeaker enclosures, the latter are always fixed in position in relation to one another. This ensures variable adjustability of loudspeaker enclosures by means of the angle-position device, while, at the same time, the situation where a disadvantageous, unstable angle position of one or more loudspeaker enclosures arises is reliably ruled out. An angle adjustment of two interconnected loudspeaker enclosures by means of the angle-position device, which acts in the manner of a turnbuckle, can be carried out in an easy-to-handle manner by a single person, the only

requirement being for this person to actuate the angle-position device, rather than there being any additional need - as in the prior art - for, if appropriate, a further person to ensure stable positioning of one or more loudspeaker enclosures which are to be angle-adjusted. It is particularly advantageous that the subject-matter of the invention allows at least two loudspeaker enclosures to be suspended in a very straightforward manner. This is because the connecting unit fixes the two loudspeaker enclosures relative to one another, and the loudspeaker enclosure fixed in this way may preferably be accommodated in a precise position in space merely by way of a suspension means or the like. In this case, the suspension means acts on any desired point of the unit comprising the two loudspeaker enclosures and the connecting unit. Provision is preferably made to provide a fastening unit in order to give a fastening point for the unit as a whole. The vertical alignment of the loudspeaker enclosures is preferably carried out by means of the connecting unit according to the invention. The horizontal alignment of the loudspeaker enclosures takes place by means of separate elements, that is to say independently of the connecting unit.

The angle-position device is advantageously operatively connected on the end sides in each case to one of the two supporting parts. This allows the connecting unit to be realized as a user-friendly, compact and preassembled

subassembly since the two supporting parts can be operatively connected to the angle-position device even before they are fastened on the associated loudspeaker enclosures.

The carrying parts are preferably fastened in each case on a support element which retains a loudspeaker enclosure. This allows, on the one hand, reliable and stable fixing, in particular, of comparatively large and/or heavy loudspeaker enclosures and, on the other hand, preassembly of the connecting unit with the corresponding support elements, since the loudspeaker enclosures may also be fastened on the associated support element at a later point in time.

The supporting parts are advantageously two components of the same design. Since the two supporting parts, which are connected to one another in an articulated manner, have the same function, namely of ensuring secure fastening of the connecting unit on the corresponding loudspeaker enclosures and/or the associated support elements and, at the same time, of allowing angle adjustment of one or more loudspeaker enclosures, the two supporting parts may be designed as identical components. This ensures a reduction in production outlay and relatively straightforward assembly and/or preliminary assembly.

According to a preferred embodiment, the angle-position device has an adjustment sleeve, containing an internal left-handed thread at one end and an internal right-handed thread at the other end, and a respective threaded



bolt which is operatively connected to the adjustment sleeve on the end sides, has a corresponding external thread and is fastened, by way of its end spaced apart from the adjustment sleeve, on the associated supporting part in an articulated manner and such that it is rotationally fixed in relation to its longitudinal axis. An angle-position device which is designed in this way, and acts in the manner of a turnbuckle, makes possible, by straightforward rotation of the adjustment sleeve about its longitudinal axis, reliable and easy-to-handle angle adjustment, which is stable in any angle position, of at least two loudspeaker enclosures which are operatively connected by means of the connecting unit. In this case, the stability is maintained in all angle positions of the loudspeaker enclosures on account of the permanent thread engagement between the respective threaded bolt and the adjustment sleeve.

For the purpose of arresting the angle-position device, there is advantageously provided in each case one lock nut which can be rotatably adjusted on the associated threaded bolt and can be brought into abutment with the adjustment sleeve on the end side. A lock nut which is brought into abutment with the adjustment sleeve on the end side in each case prevents undesired angle adjustment of a corresponding loudspeaker enclosure by means of the adjustment sleeve rotating about its longitudinal axis such that the threaded bolts are displaced longitudinally into the

adjustment sleeve. Such a rotary movement of the adjustment sleeve is only possible when the two lock nuts are located, on the corresponding threaded bolt, in a position in which they are spaced apart from the associated end of the adjustment sleeve.

According to a preferred embodiment, on the end side, the supporting parts have in each case one centrally arranged fastening web for the purpose of fastening, in an articulated manner, the associated end of the angle-position device, which extends, in a longitudinal direction, perpendicularly to an axis of rotation of the supporting parts. This allows a compact configuration of the connecting unit which is favorable in terms of force transmission.

The supporting parts are advantageously of cross-sectionally U-shaped design parallel to their axis of rotation and, in an overlapping region of the corresponding side webs, are operatively connected to one another by means of an articulation bolt arranged coaxially with the axis of rotation. Supporting parts of cross-sectionally U-shaped design are particularly stable against deformation and make it possible, in a comparatively straightforward manner, to produce an articulation connection between the supporting parts in an overlapping region of the corresponding side webs.

The support elements are advantageously of U-shaped design in longitudinal section in each case, and the

respective loudspeaker enclosure is fixed in the associated support element in a rotatably adjustable manner. A loudspeaker enclosure can be fixed in a support element in a rotatably adjustable manner, for example, by means of a respective fixing mechanism which operatively connects one leg of the support element to the top side and base side of a loudspeaker enclosure. In this case, the loudspeaker enclosure is thus retained between the two opposite, spaced-apart legs of the support element, it being possible for the loudspeaker enclosure to be rotatably adjusted between the legs.

Further advantageous configurations of the invention can be gathered from the description.

The invention is explained in more detail hereinbelow by way of an exemplary embodiment with reference to associated drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a schematic perspective view of two loudspeaker enclosures in a rectilinear arrangement, said enclosures being connected by a connecting unit according to the invention;

Figure 2 shows a schematic perspective view of the loudspeaker enclosures according to Figure 1 in an angle position; and

Figure 3 shows, on an enlarged scale, a schematic perspective view of the connecting unit according to the invention from Figure 1.

Figures 1 and 2 show two vertically arranged loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12 which are retained in an associated support element 16, 17 and are connected to one another in an angle-adjustable manner by means of a connecting unit 10. The loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12 are each operatively connected, on their top surfaces 46 and on their base surfaces 47, to an associated leg 45 of the support elements 16, 17, which are of U-shaped design in longitudinal section. The connecting unit 10 has a first supporting part 13, which is assigned to the top loudspeaker enclosure 11, and a second supporting part 14, which is assigned to the bottom loudspeaker enclosure 12, the supporting parts 13, 14 being connected to one another in an articulated manner. On the end side, the two supporting parts 13, 14 have in each case one centrally arranged fastening web 25, 26, on which an angle-position device 15 is fastened in an articulated manner by way of its associated end. The angle-position device 15 is designed as an adjustment device which acts in the manner of a turnbuckle and by means of which the angle position assumed in each case between the two supporting parts 13, 14 can be fixed in an adjustable manner. This means that the angle-position device 15 ensures a stable angle position of the two loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12 in each variably adjustable angle position of the supporting parts 13, 14. By means of actuation of the angle-position device 15, which acts in the manner of a turnbuckle, the

loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12 can be pivoted toward one another and away from one another, in accordance with the double arrows 43, about the longitudinal axis of an articulation bolt 31 which operatively connects the two supporting elements 13, 14, said pivoting action forming an angle position with a pivot angle  $\alpha$  between the base surface 47 of the top loudspeaker enclosure 11 and the top surface 46 of the bottom loudspeaker enclosure 12. The angle-position device 15 ensures that, before, during and after the angle adjustment of the loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12, the latter are always in a stable operating position. The angle-position device 15 thus allows variable adjustment of a respectively desired angle position of the two loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12 and, at the same time, ensures that the two loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12 are fixed in a stable position in relation to one another at any point in time, that is to say in particular also during angle adjustment of the same.

Figure 3 shows a schematic illustration of the connecting unit 10 from Figures 1 and 2 on an enlarged scale. The two supporting parts 13, 14 of the connecting unit 10 are operatively connected to one another by means of the articulation bolt 31 and can be pivoted in a controlled manner about an axis of rotation 27, which is simultaneously the longitudinal axis of the articulation bolt 31, from the rectilinear operating position (angle  $\alpha = 0$ ), which is

illustrated in 3, into an angle position according to Figure 2 (angle  $\alpha > 0$ ) and back again into the rectilinear position according to Figure 3 by means of corresponding actuation of the angle-position device 15. The angle-position device 15 has an adjustment sleeve 18 which contains an internal left-handed thread at one end and an internal right-handed thread at the other end. The adjustment sleeve 18 is operatively connected on the end sides in each case to a threaded bolt 19, 20 containing a corresponding external thread 21, 22. By way of their end which has the corresponding external thread 21, 22, the two threaded bolts 19, 20 are screwed in the adjustment sleeve 18 and, by way of their other end 35, which is spaced apart from the adjustment sleeve 18 and is of U-shaped or fork-like design, said threaded bolts 19, 20 are operatively connected to the fastening web 25, 26 of the associated supporting part 13 or 14, respectively, by means of a respective articulation bolt 36 for the purpose of forming an articulation connection.

The operative connection between threaded bolt 19 or 20 and the supporting part 13 or 14, respectively, is such that the threaded bolts 19, 20 are fitted in a rotationally fixed manner in relation to a longitudinal axis 32 and, at the same time, can be pivoted in relation to the corresponding supporting part 13, 14, about a longitudinal axis (not illustrated) of the associated articulation bolt 36, by means of actuation of the angle-position device 15.

The adjustment sleeve 18 has at least one actuating opening 34 into which a lever (not illustrated) can be introduced in order to achieve rotary movement of the adjustment sleeve 18 about the longitudinal axis 32, in accordance with double arrow 44, for the purpose of actuating the angle-position device 15. For the purpose of arresting the adjustment sleeve 18, and thus the angle-position device 15, there is provided a respective lock nut 23, 24 which can be rotatably adjusted on the associated threaded bolt 19 or 20, respectively, and can be brought into abutment with the adjustment sleeve 18 on the end side.

The supporting parts 13, 14 are of cross-sectionally essentially U-shaped design parallel to their axes of rotation 27 and, in an overlapping region 28 of the corresponding side webs 29, 30, are operatively connected to one another by means of the articulation bolt 31 arranged coaxially with the axis of rotation 27. Located in the overlapping region 28, between the side webs 29 and 30, is in each case one cutout 48, which allows unobstructed pivoting of the supporting part 13, 14 into an angle position (see also Figure 2). On their abutment side 49, the supporting parts 13, 14 each have a plurality of slot-like through-passage openings which serve for the purpose of fastening the connecting unit 10 on the support elements 16, 17, for example, by means of a screw-connection. Furthermore, the two supporting parts 13, 14 are designed as identical components,

with the result that there are no differences in design between the supporting parts 13, 14. As is illustrated in Figure 3, the connecting unit 10 may be preassembled in its entirety as a compact subassembly.

For the purpose of actuating the angle-position device 15, the lock nuts 23, 24 are rotated into a position in which they are spaced apart from the corresponding end of the adjustment sleeve 18. The adjustment sleeve 18 can then be rotated in one of the two directions of rotation, in accordance with double arrow 44, about the longitudinal axis 32 by means of a lever (not illustrated) introduced into the actuating opening 34. Since the adjustment sleeve 18 has an internal left-handed thread at one end and an internal right-handed thread at the other end, its rotary movement causes the threaded bolts 19, 20 to be displaced longitudinally into the adjustment sleeve 18 or away from the same, and thus brings about a pivoting movement of the two supporting parts 13, 14 about the axis of rotation 27. On account of this pivoting movement, the two loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12 (see Figure 2) can be angle-adjusted in relation to one another in a controlled manner, the two loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12 being fixed in a stable position in relation to one another in any operating position also during the angle-adjustment.

As is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the legs 45 of the support elements 16, 17 are each provided with two slots 38, 41 which are curved in the form of an arc of a circle.



The two slots 38, 41 each serve for fixing the corresponding loudspeaker enclosure 11, 12 in the associated support element 16, 17 in a rotatably adjustable manner. Extending through the slot 38 is a fixing element 39 which is operatively connected to the top surface 46 and/or to the base surface 47 of a loudspeaker enclosure 11, 12 and, in the released operating position, can be displaced along the slot 38. A further fixing element 40 is arranged at a point of rotation of the corresponding loudspeaker enclosure 11, 12. Said point of rotation is the geometrical center point of the circle-arc-shaped slot 38. In an operating state in which they are relieved of stressing, that is to say with the fixing elements 39, 40 and the associated leg 45 of the corresponding supporting element 16, 17 being operatively connected loosely and thus in a manner which allows relative movement (rotation) of the corresponding loudspeaker enclosure in the associated supporting element 16, 17, the fixing elements 39, 40 thus allow rotary adjustment of the associated loudspeaker enclosure 11, 12 about a longitudinal axis (not illustrated) which leads through the fixing elements 40. According to an alternative embodiment, such rotary adjustment of a loudspeaker enclosure can also be achieved by means of the slot 41, which is likewise curved preferably in the form of an arc of a circle and may be operatively connected, for example, to two spaced-apart fixing elements (not illustrated). The support element 17 is

additionally provided with a fastening unit 42 by means of which the subassemblies illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, and comprising two loudspeaker enclosures 11, 12, two support elements 16, 17 and a connecting unit 10, may be fastened by suspension, for example, on a chain hoist (not illustrated).

Claims

1. A connecting unit for the angle-adjustable connection of at least two loudspeaker enclosures, which comprises a first supporting part (13), which can be assigned to one loudspeaker enclosure (11), and a second supporting part (14), which can be assigned to the other loudspeaker enclosure (12), it being the case that the supporting parts (13, 14) are connected to one another in an articulated manner, and the angle position assumed in each case between the two supporting parts (13, 14) is fixed in an adjustable manner by means of an angle-position device (15) which acts in the manner of a turnbuckle.

2. The connecting unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the angle-position device (15) is operatively connected on the end sides in each case to one of the two supporting parts (13, 14).

3. The connecting unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the supporting parts (13, 14) are fastened in each case on a support element (16, 17) which retains a loudspeaker enclosure (11, 12).

4. The connecting unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the supporting parts (13, 14) are two components of the same design.

5. The connecting unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the angle-position device (15) has an adjustment sleeve (18), containing an internal left-handed

thread at one end and an internal right-handed thread at the other end, and also has a respective threaded bolt (19, 20) which is operatively connected to the adjustment sleeve (18) on the end sides, has a corresponding external thread (21, 22) and is fastened, by way of its end (35) spaced apart from the adjustment sleeve (18), on the associated supporting part (13, 14) in an articulated manner and such that it is rotationally fixed in relation to its longitudinal axis (32).

6. The connecting unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein, for the purpose of arresting the angle-position device (15), there is provided in each case one lock nut (23, 24) which can be rotatably adjusted on the associated threaded bolt (19, 20) and can be brought into abutment with the adjustment sleeve (18) on the end side.

7. The connecting unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein, on the end side, the supporting parts (13, 14) have in each case one centrally arranged fastening web (25, 26) for the purpose of fastening, in an articulated manner, the associated end of the angle-position device (15), which extends, in the longitudinal direction, perpendicularly to an axis of rotation (27) of the supporting parts (13, 14).

8. The connecting unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the supporting parts (13, 14) are of cross-sectionally U-shaped design parallel to their axis of rotation (27) and, in an overlapping region (28) of the

corresponding side webs (29, 30), are operatively connected to one another by means of an articulation bolt (31) arranged coaxially with the axis of rotation (27).

9. The connecting unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the support elements (16, 17) are of U-shaped design in longitudinal section in each case, and the respective loudspeaker enclosure (11, 12) is fixed in the associated support element (16, 17) in a rotatably adjustable manner.

10. Loudspeaker enclosures which are connected to one another by means of a connecting unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims.

Abstract

The invention relates to a connecting unit for the angle-adjustable connection of at least two loudspeaker enclosures. There are provided a first supporting part (13), which can be assigned to one loudspeaker enclosure (11), and a second supporting part (14), which can be assigned to the other loudspeaker enclosure (12), it being the case that the supporting parts (13, 14) are connected to one another in an articulated manner, and the angle position assumed in each case between the two supporting parts (13, 14) is fixed in an adjustable manner by means of an angle-position device (15) which acts in the manner of a turnbuckle.

(Figure 2)

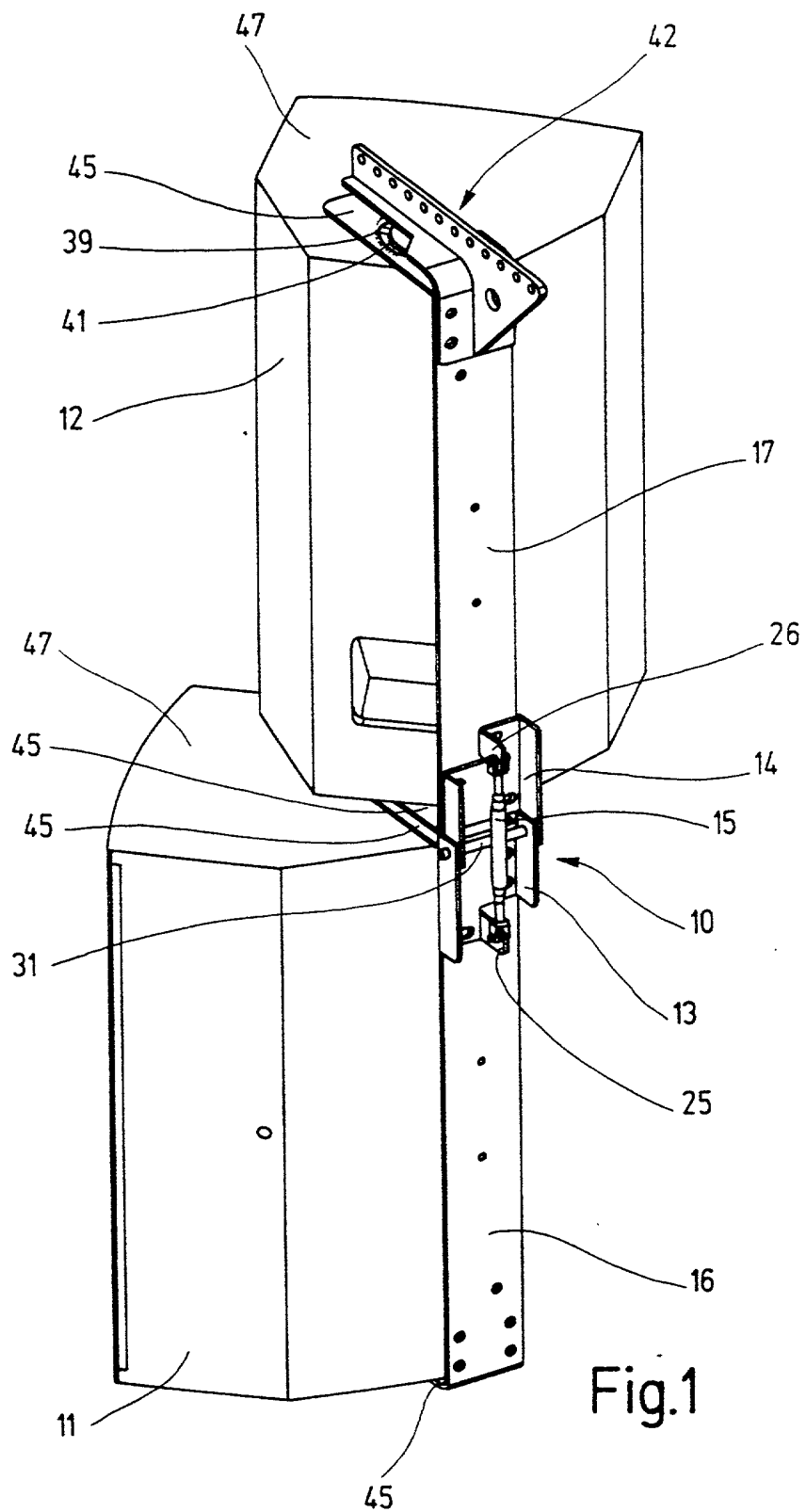
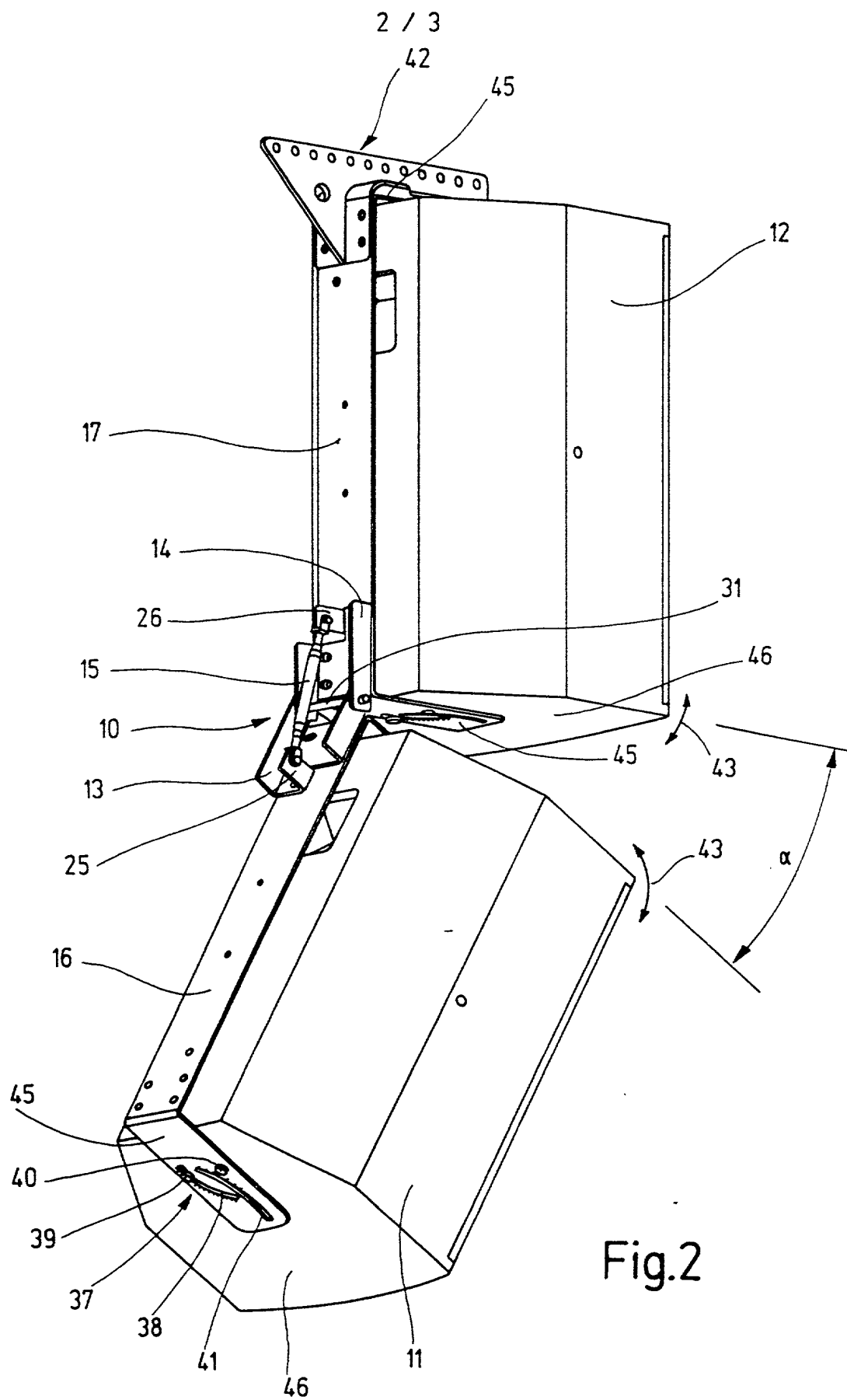
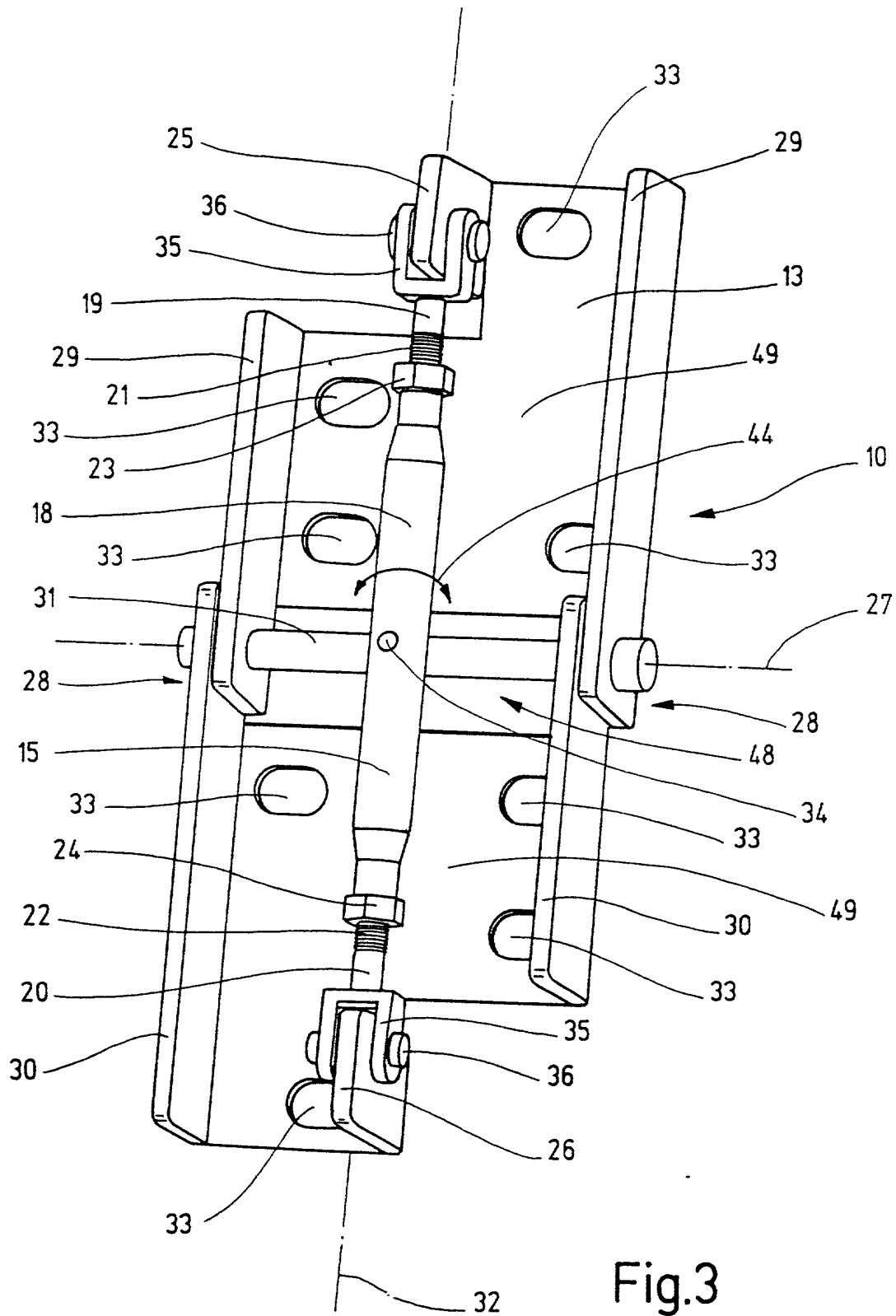


Fig.1







UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION		OFGS FILE NO. P/2107-135																																																					
<p>As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:</p> <p><b><u>CONNECTING UNIT FOR THE ANGLE-ADJUSTABLE CONNECTION OF AT LEAST TWO LOUDSPEAKER ENCLOSURES, AND CORRESPONDINGLY CONNECTED LOUDSPEAKER ENCLOSURES</u></b></p> <p>the specification of which is attached hereto, unless the following box is checked:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> was filed on _____ as United States patent Application Number or PCT International patent application number _____ and was amended on _____ (if any).</p> <p>I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.</p> <p>I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.</p> <p>I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or United States provisional application(s) listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:</p> <p>Prior Foreign or Provisional Application(s)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">COUNTRY</th> <th style="width: 25%;">APPLICATION NUMBER</th> <th style="width: 25%;">DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)</th> <th style="width: 25%;">PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Germany</td> <td>20006335.9</td> <td>7 April 2000</td> <td>YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">UNITED STATES APPLICATION NUMBER</th> <th style="width: 33%;">DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)</th> <th style="width: 34%;">STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I hereby appoint customer no. 2352 OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB &amp; SOFFEN, LLP, and the members of the firm, Samuel H. Weiner - Reg. No. 18,510; Jerome M. Berliner - Reg. No. 18,653; Robert C. Faber - Reg. No. 24,322; Edward A. Meilman - Reg. No. 24,735; Stanley H. Lieberstein - Reg. No. 22,400; Steven I. Weisburd - Reg. No. 27,409; Max Moskowitz - Reg. No. 30,576; Stephen A. Soffen - Reg. No. 31,063; James A. Finder - Reg. No. 30,173; William O. Gray, III - Reg. No. 30,944; Louis C. Dujmich - Reg. No. 30,625 and Douglas A. Miro - Reg. No. 31,643, as attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application, to transact all business in the Patent &amp; Trademark Office connected therewith and to receive all correspondence.</p> <p>SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: <b>OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB &amp; SOFFEN, LLP</b> DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:  1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS (212) 382-0700  NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036-8403  CUSTOMER NO. 2352</p> <p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR <b>Frank BOTHE</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;">INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE</td> <td style="width: 34%;">DATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">RESIDENCE (City and either State or Foreign Country) <b>71522 Backnang, Germany</b></td> <td>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP <b>Germany</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">POST OFFICE ADDRESS <b>Mozartstrasse 18, 71522 Backnang, Germany</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR (IF ANY)</td> <td>INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE</td> <td>DATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">RESIDENCE (City and either State or Foreign Country)</td> <td>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">POST OFFICE ADDRESS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR (IF ANY)</td> <td>INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE</td> <td>DATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">RESIDENCE (City and either State or Foreign Country)</td> <td>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">POST OFFICE ADDRESS</td> </tr> </table>				COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119	Germany	20006335.9	7 April 2000	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>				YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>				YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	UNITED STATES APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)							FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR <b>Frank BOTHE</b>	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE	RESIDENCE (City and either State or Foreign Country) <b>71522 Backnang, Germany</b>		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP <b>Germany</b>	POST OFFICE ADDRESS <b>Mozartstrasse 18, 71522 Backnang, Germany</b>			FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR (IF ANY)	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE	RESIDENCE (City and either State or Foreign Country)		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	POST OFFICE ADDRESS			FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR (IF ANY)	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE	RESIDENCE (City and either State or Foreign Country)		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	POST OFFICE ADDRESS		
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